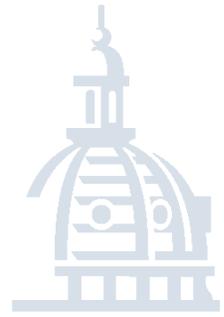




FISCAL UPDATE News Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 17, 2015



IOWA SUPREME COURT RULING – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Ruling. The Iowa Supreme Court found no conflict of interest exists for the [State Public Defender's Office](#) that had previously represented a prosecution witness in a defendant's case. The Supreme Court decision in [State v. Lavelle Lonelle McKinley](#), No. 13-1226 (Iowa 2015) found that the district court's decision disqualifying the State Public Defender's Office was based primarily on erroneous applications of the provisions of the [Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct](#). The original district court decision created limitations on the Office of the State Public Defender that would have resulted in more cases being sent to the private defense bar.

Additional Information. The FY 2014 average cost per case for the Office of the State Public Defender was \$299. The FY 2014 average cost per claim for private attorneys was \$495. See the [Factbook 2014](#) published by the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) in February 2015 for additional statistics and financial information about Iowa.

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